

Subject: Albanian Exile Political
Activities - Balli Kombetar
Schism

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Bagnoli Assembly Dissident Ballists, 12-13 August 1950

1. Held on 12-13 August 1950, as planned, the assembly of KLISSURA-VIORA led dissident moderates of Balli Kombetar was attended by 58 of the 65 members who live at the Bagnoli Camp. In addition there were present the following authorized observers from other Albanian political groups in exile:
 - a) Dr. Edward LICO, for the Shoku-Kombetar Independent;
 - b) Aslan KESIMI for the Legalitet Party of Log;
 - c) Dr. Skender KUREDDINI for the Kosovo group;
 - d) Banko KRENDI for the Jait KREZIU Agrarian Party.
2. In his opening address, the assembly's chairman Halim BEGEJA explained in detail the situation which led to the meeting, covering the following points:
 - a) Briefly reviewing Balli history and its struggle inside Albania and in emigration, BEGEJA deplored the activities of the "self-elected Council" which heedless of the need for unity, has split the Party into two factions;
 - b) He identified Vasil ADONI, Halil HAJI, Zef PALI, Halil MYRIKU, and Abbas KREKENJI as the principal members of an inner clique responsible for a policy utterly indifferent to the best interests of the Albanian national case, and responsible for the divergencies existing within the Balli Kombetar itself. "This clique", stated BEGEJA, "has adopted a fully totalitarian method of procedure, and has completely abandoned all respect for the principles of the democracy for which Balli Kombetar has fought and is fighting, for which thousands of members have given their life blood";
 - c) In spite of the fact that invitations to the assembly were dispatched to all members of Balli without regard to their past and present political attitudes within the party, not one member of the clique named had the courage to appear before the assembly to justify past activities;
 - d) Illustrative of the high-handed methods of the extremist clique is the fact that it arbitrarily attempted to transform Balli into the "Albanian Democratic Agrarian Party"; this step, BEGEJA pointed out, constituted a direct violation of Balli's constitutional decalogue which provides that a decision of that nature can be made only in plenary session on the free soil of Albania;

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- e) Thus justifying the necessity for calling an assembly, reading the 270 special proxies from Balli members abroad (United States, Canada, Australia, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Egypt, etc), and expressing regret at the absence of members forced to leave Europe in order to resolve personal situations, BEGEJA proceeded to read the article of the Party constitution which gives the right to convoke such an assembly;
3. After a hand vote which, together with the votes represented by proxy, approved the convoking of the assembly by a majority of over two-thirds of the entire Balli Kombetar membership, BEGEJA read the Order of the Day.
4. After being unanimously named chairman, Muredin VLORA addressed the assembly, covering the following points:
 - a) As a member of Balli's Council until several months previously, VLORA had been completely without success in his efforts to influence other members to proceed on the basis of democratic principles. He was at all points blocked in his constant attempts to persuade president Hasan DOSTI to respect Balli traditions and principles, to avoid a split within the party, and to reach union and a basis for collaboration with all anti-Communist Albanian groups in exile without regard to ideological differences. Because of this situation he had resigned his council post;
 - b) As one of the few Balli founders still alive and faithful to the party's principals, VLORA stated, he was forced to recognize the necessity for calling the assembly;
 - c) Identifying Hasan DOSTI and the council over which he presides as belonging to a recently formed political group, the "Albanian Democratic Agrarian Party", he formally declared them no longer members of Balli Kombetar. He then went on to express his confidence that the great majority of his party colleagues will continue faithful to their oath to continue the struggle under Balli's colors, in union with all other Albanian anti-Communist patriots, for a free and democratic national Albania.
5. This address was followed by those of Myrtesa SHENI, Agim BEQAJ, Mahiddin NEVICA, and Selman SHENAJ, all of whom followed the lines laid down by BEGEJA and VLORA.
6. The next speaker, Ali KLISSURA, covered the following principal points in an address lasting an hour and a half: (See Attachment "A" for Italian version)
 - a) Referring to Albania's recent history and emphasizing its past political mistakes, he pointed out that only the union of all national and anti-Communist political groups in exile can effectively contribute to the liberation of Albania;
 - b) The DOSTI-led council has sacrificed the good reputation of Balli Kombetar in order to become members of the International Agrarian Movement, a step which they believe will guarantee their future political existence. While Hasan DOSTI and Zef PALLI are sitting in on the Free Albania Committee with Sali KRYEZIU's Agrarian Party, they are capable of such underhanded conspiracy and intrigue, even appear proud of having engaged in what they describe as a masterly political maneuver. It is impossible, therefore, that Balli membership entrust the future of its country to them;

- c) KLISSURA ended his address with an appeal for unity of all Albanian anti-Communists in the struggle for liberation of their country.
7. In a second address Halim BEGEJA read to the assembly numerous letters from Balli Kombetar groups in the United States, Syria, Italy, etc., in which they appeal to the council to correct its high-handed attitude to the party's membership, to proceed according to democratic principles, and to strive for unity of all anti-Communist efforts. Pointing out that the council had never seen fit to reply to those appeals, BEGEJA described the Albanian "agrarian" Party as being guilty of following a mistaken policy of dereliction of patriotic duty, and of inner-party dictatorship.
8. On the following day the first part of the assembly was taken up by addresses from the observers of other parties (see para. 1, above) all of whom wished success to the new Balli Kombetar, and approved of its desire for union of all anti-Communist Albanians in exile.
9. As the final business on its agenda, the assembly proceeded to unanimous election of the following officers:
 - a) Nureddin VIORA, chairman;
 - b) Ali KLISSURA, president;
 - c) Koco LUKA, vice-president;
 - d) Halim BEGEJA, secretary.
10. By majority vote the following council members were elected: Kadri CAKRANI, Haki SHEHU, Haxhi ANINA, Odise DHIJA, Qasim ERRA. One vacant seat for Italy and two vacant ones for Greece will be filled by local vote as soon as possible.

Reaction of DUSTI-led Balli Kombetar Faction

11. In the following paragraphs there is set forth in translation the text of a manifesto (second enclosure to the present report) issued by Balli Kombetar extremist leaders in reply to the undertakings of the Magnoli assembly. Although the manifesto bears the date of 9 August 1950, it was actually drawn up subsequent to the Magnoli assembly, and distributed 17-18 August (see "attachment B" for Italian version.).
12. "The fact of our nation's slavery, the consequences and conditions of the war and our emigration, should have served to hold all members of Balli Kombetar united, ready for any sacrifice which might be necessary.
13. "Then, in May 1948, the Rome Balli Kombetar assembly elected its central council, the unity of its membership was more encouragingly evident than ever before. Our subsequent efforts were crowned by our place on the Free Albania Committee, and later by the acceptance of Balli Kombetar as a member of the International Union of Agrarians. These are positive factors with regard to our activities on behalf of the homeland and with regard to the increasing prestige of Balli Kombetar.
14. "All members of Balli Kombetar, from our late great leader Midhat FRASHERI down to the simplest soldier, did not hesitate to contribute with work, sweat, and sacrifice to the best interests of the homeland and the progress of the party.
15. "It is regrettable that only one man, Ali KLISSURA, remained dissatisfied with our efforts, exhibited an attitude of opposition, and was unwilling to join in the struggle with the rest of his comrades.
16. "During the years of our exile Ali KLISSURA has preached unity but has acted to achieve discord; he has demanded the creation of "unions" and "anti-Communist fronts", but on the practical level has opposed the efforts of his partners in the struggle. He follows a policy of compromise which change according to the moment.

17. The central committee of Balli Kombetar has done its best to persuade Ali KLISSURA to obey its wishes and general decisions, and to convince him of the wisdom of following the path of honor back to the Balli fold. Such attempts have been without result. Ali KLISSURA has continued his mistaken way, refusing to accept the basic principles of Balli Kombetar and its program of reform.

18. The central committee, therefore, has decreed the expulsion of Ali KLISSURA from the Balli Kombetar.

19. The central committee, has likewise decreed the expulsion of SAJIM RIZAJA for serious infraction of discipline.

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